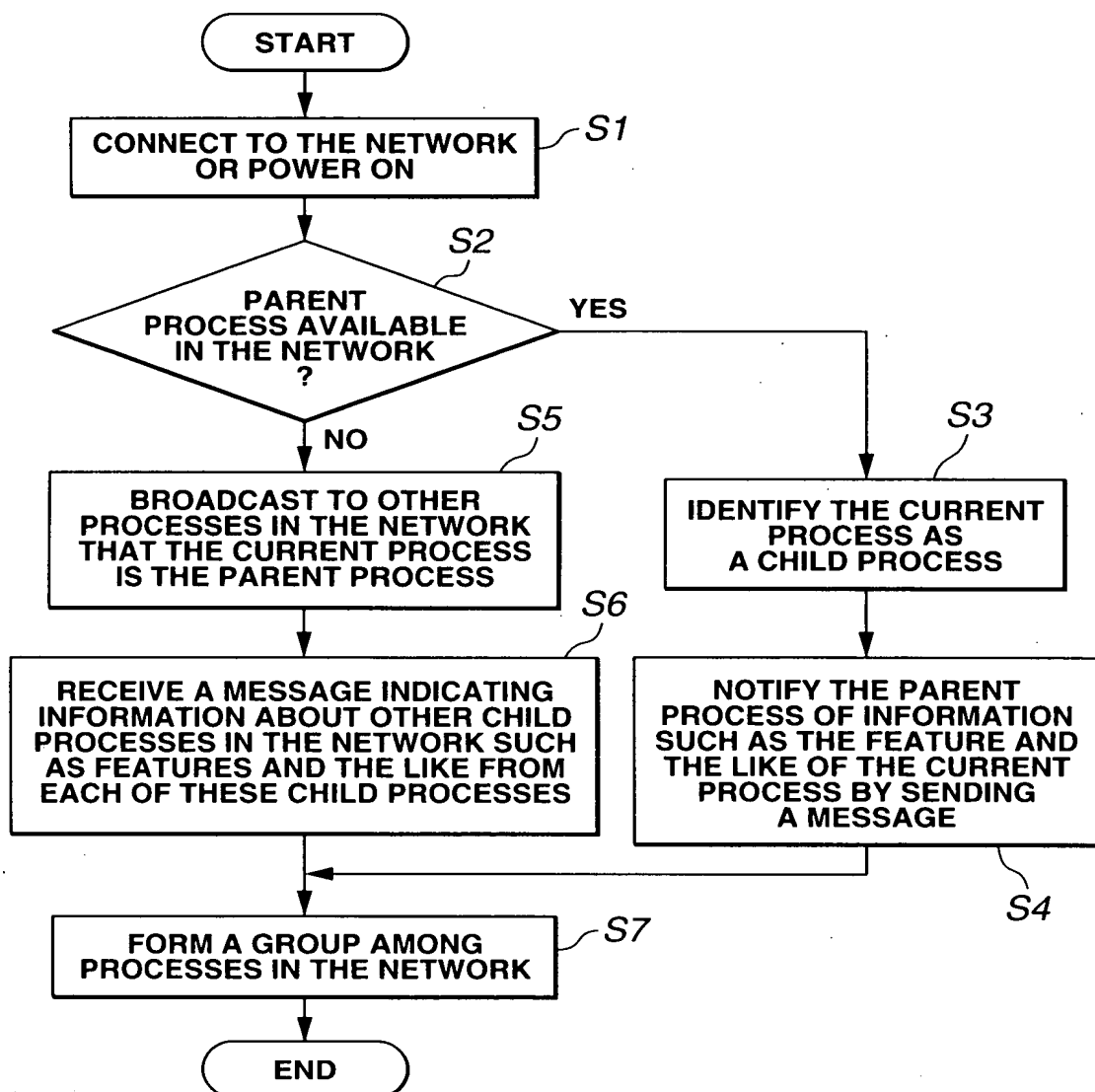


FIG.1



**FIG.2**

```
graph TD; START([START]) --> S11[RECEIVE A MESSAGE INDICATING THE PARENT PROCESS IN THE OTHER GROUP FROM A PROCESS IN THE OTHER GROUP]; S11 --> S12[TRANSFER A MESSAGE INDICATING THE PARENT PROCESS IN THE OTHER GROUP TO THE PARENT PROCESS IN THE OWN GROUP]; S12 --> END([END]);
```

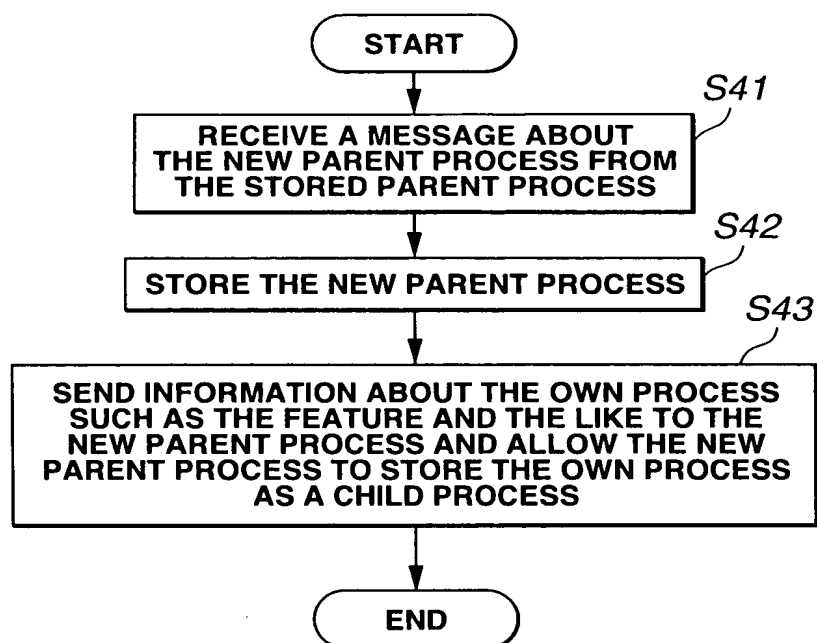
The flowchart illustrates the first embodiment of the present invention. It begins with a START terminal, followed by step S11: "RECEIVE A MESSAGE INDICATING THE PARENT PROCESS IN THE OTHER GROUP FROM A PROCESS IN THE OTHER GROUP". This is followed by step S12: "TRANSFER A MESSAGE INDICATING THE PARENT PROCESS IN THE OTHER GROUP TO THE PARENT PROCESS IN THE OWN GROUP". The process concludes at an END terminal.

```

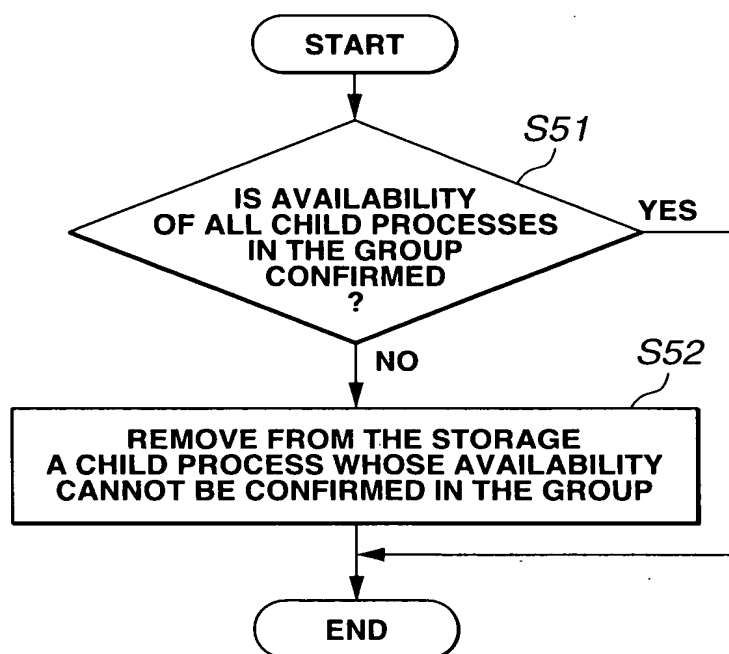
graph TD
    START([START]) --> S21[RECEIVE A MESSAGE INDICATING THE PARENT  
PROCESS IN THE OTHER GROUP FROM A CHILD  
PROCESS IN THE OWN GROUP]
    S21 --> S22[EXCHANGE MESSAGES WITH THE PARENT  
PROCESS IN THE OTHER GROUP]
    S22 --> S23{WHICH GROUP  
CONTAINS THE PARENT  
PROCESS?}
    S23 -- "OWN GROUP" --> S26[COMBINE TWO GROUPS  
TO FORM A NEW GROUP  
AND MAKE ITSELF A PARENT  
FOR THE NEW GROUP]
    S23 -- "OTHER GROUP" --> S24[CHANGE TO A CHILD PROCESS]
    S26 --> S27[RECEIVE A MESSAGE FROM  
A CHILD PROCESS THAT  
IS NEWLY ADDED TO  
THE GROUP AND STORE  
THE NEW CHILD PROCESS]
    S24 --> S25[SEND A MESSAGE INDICATING  
THE NEW PARENT TO EACH  
OF STORED CHILD PROCESSES]
    S27 --> S25
    S25 --> END([END])

```

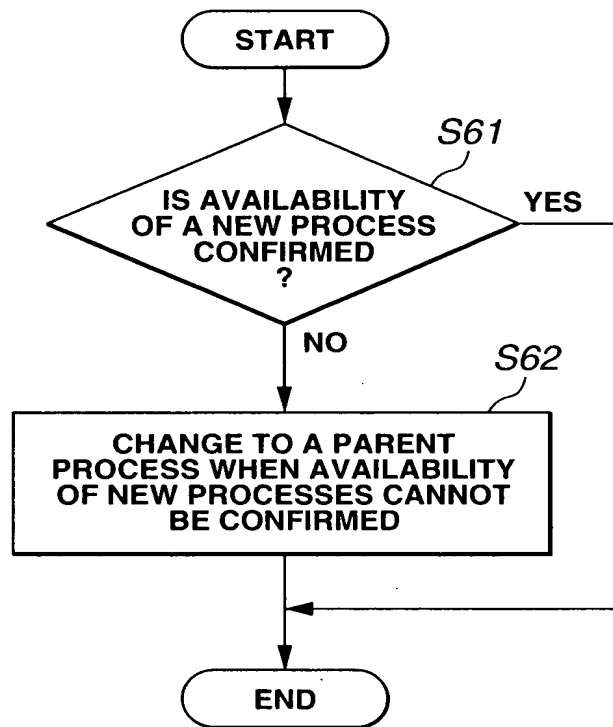
**FIG.4**



**FIG.5**



**FIG.6**



**FIG.7**



```

if (S==S_NEGOTIATING) {
    if (E . m_type==M_NOTIFY) {
        ignore ( ) ;
    }else
    if (E . m_type==M_FORWARD) {
    if (E . m_addr==M) {
        assign_P (M) ;
        trans (S_PARENT) ;
    }else{
        assign_P (E . m_addr) ;
        send (P , M_NEGOTIATE , M) ;
    }
    }else
    if (E . m_type==M_REPORT) {
        ignore ( ) ;
    }else
    if (E . m_type==M_NEGOTIATE) {
    if (P==E . m_addr && decide (P , M)==P) {
        send (E . m_addr , M_YOURE) ;
    }else{
        send (E . m_addr , M_BUSY) ;
    }
    }else
    if (E . m_type==M_IAM) {
        assign_P (E . m_addr) ;
        send (P , M_JOIN , M) ;
        send_C (M_FORWARD , P) ;
        empty_C ( ) ;
        trans (S_CHILD) ;
    }else
    if (E . m_type==M_YOURE) {
        assign_P (M) ;
        trans (S_PARENT) ;
    }else
    if (E . m_type==M_BUSY) {
        send (P , M_NEGOTIATE , M) ;
    }else
    if (E . m_type==M_JOIN) {
        add_C (E . m_addr) ;
    }else
    if (E . m_type==E_ERROR) {
        assign_P (M) ;
        trans (S_PARENT) ;
    }else
    if (E . m_type==E_TIMEOUT) {
        assign_P (M) ;
        trans (S_PARENT) ;
    }
}
}

```

**FIG.9**

```

if (S==S_CHILD) {
  if (E . m_type==E_NOTIFY) {
    if (E . m_addr !=P) {
      send (P , M_REPORT , E . m_addr) ;
    }
  }else
  if (E . m_type==E_FORWARD) {
    assign_P (E . m_addr) ;
  }
  if (P==M) {
    trans (S_PARENT) ;
  }else{
    send (P , M_JOIN , M) ;
  }
}
if (E . m_type==M_REPORT) {
  send (E . m_form , M_FORWARD , P) ;
}else
if (E . m_addr , M_FORWARD , P) ;
  send (E . m_form , M_FORWARD , P) ;
}else
if (E . m_type==M_IAM) {
  ignore ( ) ;
}else
if (E . m_type==M_YOURE) {
  ignore ( ) ;
}else
if (E . m_type==M_BUSY) {
  send (P , M_JOIN , M) ;
}else
if (E . m_type==M_JOIN) {
  send (E . m_addr , M_FORWARD , P) ;
}else
if (E . m_type==M_ERROR) {
  assign_P (M) ;
  trans (S_PARENT) ;
}else
if (E . m_type==E_TIMEOUT) {
  broadcast (M_NOTIFY , P) ;
  trans (S_PARENT) ;
}
}
}
}

```

**FIG.10**







SERVICE IDENTIFIER	ADDRESS	PORT NUMBER
WWW-service	192 . 168 . 1 . 1	80
file-service	192 . 168 . 1 . 1	2049
print-service	192 . 168 . 1 . 1	515

**FIG.14**

addr	INFORMATION			D[]
	SERVICE IDENTIFIER	ADDRESS	PORT NUMBER	
192 . 168 . 1 . 1	WWW-service	192 . 168 . 1 . 1	80	...
	file-service	192 . 168 . 1 . 1	2049	
	print-service	192 . 168 . 1 . 1	515	
192 . 168 . 1 . 2	WWW-service	192 . 168 . 1 . 2	80	...
	print-service	192 . 168 . 1 . 2	515	
	192 . 168 . 1 . 3	WWW-service	192 . 168 . 1 . 3	
file-service		192 . 168 . 1 . 3	2049	

**FIG.15**